

March 12, 1959

4:50 p.m.



TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL GOODPASTER

General Goodpaster said the President had seen the proposed demarche to the British and suggested language on a Summit Conference in draft note to Khrushchev.

In the Khrushchev note, the President wanted to include a formula like "assuming the Foreign Ministers meeting gives promise of progress at a summit meeting, this government would be happy to proceed at a convenient place and time", which CAH said was not too different from the language we suggested. Goodpaster said the President wanted to put in "an assuming" clause.

Goodpaster said privately we could have an understanding that the President is willing to find in the Foreign Ministers meeting some sign of progress. President felt that if there were no progress at all and it was clear from the Foreign Ministers meeting that there was no prospect for progress at a summit meeting, the President would be subject to impeachment if he agreed to a summit meeting, and President felt Macmillan should know we would have to see some prospect at a summit.

To recap, Goodpaster said the President can give Macmillan "assurance that he stands ready to find signs of progress in the Foreign Ministers meeting, and second he would have to feel some prospect of accomplishment at a summit meeting".

CAH pointed out that if there is no progress at the Foreign Ministers level, the situation might be so acute that consideration might have to be given to bilateral talks between the President and Khrushchev to save the situation. Goodpaster said the President also had thought of this, and Goodpaster suggested we might modify the President's statement to Macmillan to "some prospect that a summit conference could serve a useful purpose" which would cover this point.

Goodpaster said President had mentioned the fact that if we try to send the notes off before the 19th, we might have to accept some slight shading of wording in the notes which could be harmful if it pointed up differences. CAH said we planned to fully coordinate the replies; that we hoped it could be done by the 19th.

Goodpaster said the President is prepared to go ahead in that kind of a context. President would like an "assuming" clause in the note to Khrushchev and wants to say to Macmillan he is quite ready to find progress and also some prospect of accomplishment and useful purpose in the summit.